(b) the number of them who are still in India, indicating their campwise details and by what time all of them are likely to be sent back to Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Of the 1,34,053 Sri Lankan refugees who had come to India since July 1983, 19,581 have gone back on their own, and 22,618 have returned voluntarily under arrangements made by Government.

(b) As on 4.8.1988 there were 91,854 refugees still in India. Of these 2,031 are in camps (1654 in Mandapam camp and 377 in Kottapattu camp). The rest are outside camps. No time-frame for the return of all Sri Lankan refugees can be given as voluntary. However, all refugees are expected to return to Sri Lanka in due course.

U.S. assistance to Pakistan after Soviet pull out from Afghanistan

2088. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the Geneva accord and withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan with considerable reduction in Pak defence requirements, U.S.A. is persisting in providing enormous arms aid to Pakistan; and

(b) whether Government have taken up with U.S.A. direct and or otherwise bringing pressures to bear on U.S.A. to desist from giving such disproportionate aid to military regime in Pakistan in the interest of peace in the subcontinent, if so the details of such steps taken during the past three months and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On various occasions, including in the last three months, Government has expressed its serious concern over the supply of sophisticated US arms to Pakistan. Government is alert to all developments having a bearing on India's security.

Presence of foreign Naval ships in Indian Ocean

2089. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been a large number of foreign naval ships in the Indian Ocean threatening the Indian sub-continent;

(b) if so, whether the foreign military presence in the Indian Ocean has been increasing for the last two or three years and during the current year the increase has been much more;

(c) if so, what are the total number of foreign ships which are in the Indian Ocean and what are the countries to whom these belong; and

(d) what is the reaction of Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The number of foreign naval ships in the Indian Ocean has been rising in recent years There was a considerable increase in this number last year due to the situation in the Gulf. However, available figures do not indicate a substantial increase during this year.

(c) According to available information there are at present approximately 148 foreign naval ships in the Indian Ocean (including the Gulf). Among these are ships from the USA, USSR, France, UK, and Italy.

(d) India has consistently opposed foreign military presence in the Indian Ocean.